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Attorney Docket: 225/49847  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#4

3-7-03

Applicant: FOCKE RASS ET AL.  
Serial No.: 09/835,063 Group Art Unit:  
Filed: APRIL 16, 2001 Examiner:  
Title: VEHICLE LOCK, IN PARTICULAR FOR A TAILGATE DOOR

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

English abstracts of the French and German Patent documents are submitted herewith.

Furthermore, in compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.


The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e). No fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) is required.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

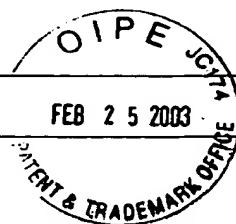
Respectfully submitted,

February 25, 2003

  
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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Attorney Docket No. 225/49847	Serial No. 09/835,063
	Applicant: Focke RASS, et al.	
	Filing Date April 16, 2001	Group



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AA	5064299	11/1991	Hamada, et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	TRANSLATION	
							Yes	No
	AK	673225	06/1952	United Kingdom				
	AL	0314075	05/1989	Europe				
	AM	19649743	06/1997	Germany			Abstract	
	AN	2633654	01/1990	France			Abstract	
	AO							
	AP							

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AQ	European Search Report					
	AR						
	AS						

<b>EXAMINER</b>  EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
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